To the Right Honourable the Lords in Parliament Assembled.

714. h 12 / 5

The Humble Petition of Tho. Violet *Goldsmith.*

SHEWETH,

THat your Petitioner being commanded by his late Majestie, King *Charles* the first at *Oxford*, to bring up to *London* his gracious letter in *December* 1643. your Petitioner did bring up the same, for which your Petitioner was committed close Prisoner unto the Tower, where I remained almost four years, for nine hundred twenty eight dayes of that time close prisoner in a dismal prison, little better then a dungeon, during that time your Petitioner expended seven hundred pounds, and sequestred of all his estate, to the value of eleven thousand pounds, being taken off all his Emploiment, to his damage at this day above twenty thousand pounds, and could never obtain any part of his estate, or come to a Tryal, to your petitioners total ruine, without your Honours in Justice and Equity relieve him.

Your petitioners humble prayer to your Honours is, that you would be pleased to take the great severity of your petitioners sufferings into your Consideration, there never being the like sad president in this Nation, during all these late distracted times, that a man, for bringing up a Letter of peace from the late Kings Majestie to his Citie of *London*, should be ruined for obeying his Majesties Command; the only cause of your petitioners long Imprisonment, Sequestration and Ruine, was for bringing up his Majesties Gracious Letter, these times being so Malignant, that without Licence from some Traytors, it was held Treason for any man to bring up a Letter of peace to the Citie of *London* from the late Kings Majesty.

All the premises considered, your petitioner humbly prayes, That all Seisures and Sequestrations imposed, and laid upon your petitioners estate, for bringing up the ensuing Letter from his Majesty; and all Orders and Ordinances of Parliament, or Committees of any Counties, for the seizing and securing your petitioners estate, in Leases,

Extents, Bonds, or Offices, &c. may be made null and void by this High Court, And that your Petitioner by Order of this High Court, be left free, to ſue, and recover, and take Execution of all Bonds, Judgements, and Extents, which your Petitioner hath now in his Cuſtody, notwithſtanding any Order or Ordinance of Parliament, touching the ſame Bonds, Judgements, or Extents, as lawfully and as freely as your Petitioner might have done, before the bringing up of the late Kings Majeſties Letter to *London*, in *Decemb.* 1643.

And that your Petitioner by this High Court be reſtored to the execution of his Office, for the regulating the Manufacture of Gold and Silver Wyer, Lace, and Thread, to prevent the daily abuſes and the adulterated and ſlight making thereof, and to give a ſtop to the culling and melting down the heavy Engliſh Silver Coins, for the making of any the aforeſaid Manufactures. Your Petitioner having a Patent under the Great Seal for two lives, for the executing of this Office, the great neceſſity of that Office is certified by the Committee of Trade to the Parliament. And that your Petitioner in regard of his long impriſonment, great ſufferings and loſſes, and ſequeſtring your Petitioners Debts, Extents, and Rents of ſeveral Lands and Houſes, which were your Petitioners but for leaſe of years, alſo the taking away of your Petitioners leaſe of a Farm of the Cuſtomes, for the Importation of *Venice* Gold, and Silver Thread, Lace, and Hatbands, &c. Your Petitioners Office of Maſter-worker in the Mint, which his late Majeſty gave your Petitioner 1643. for his ſervice, on the conſideration of a debt due to your Petitioner of 1960 *l.* Your Petitioner expended againſt the tranſporters of Gold and Silver, cauſing them *Anno* 1636. to be fined in the Star Chamber 23100 *l.* which prevented the Tranſporting of Gold and Silver without Licence, for ſome years, to the great benefit of this Nation.

That in regard of theſe great Loſſes and Sufferings, which your Petitioner hath ſuſtained by bringing up the aforeſaid Letter, That your Honours would be pleaſed in part of Reparation for your Petitioners ſufferings, your Petitioner may have ſuch imployment in the Mint, Cuſtome, or Exciſe, as your Honours ſhall think fit, and that the Sequeſtration of all his Eſtate be taken off, as aforeſaid. Your Petitioner (God willing) ſhall improve his Majeſties Revenue, and hinder the tranſporting of Gold and Silver without Licence, and alſo finde out ways to ſet his Majeſties Mint conſtantly on work.

And your Petitioner ſhall ever pray, &c.

To Our Trusty and Welbeloved, Our Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Our City of London, *and all other our vvell affected Subjects of that City.*

Charles R.

TRusty and welbeloved, We greet you well, When we remember the many Acts of Grace and Favour, We and our royall Predecessours have conferred upon that our Citie of London, and the many Examples of eminent Dutie and Loyaltie, for which that Citie hath been likewise famous, We are willing to beleeve, notwithstanding the great defection We have found in that place, that all men are not so far degenerated from their affection to Us, and to the Peace of the Kingdome, as to desire a continuance of the miseries they now feel; and therefore being informed, that there is a desire in some principall persons of that Citie to present a Petition to Us, which may tend to the procuring a good understanding between Us and that Our Citie, whereby the peace of the whole Kingdome may be procured: We have thought fit to let you know, That We are ready to receive any such Petition, and the persons who shall be appointed to present the same to Us, shall have a safe conduct; And you shall assure all Our good Subjects of that our Citie, whose hearts are touched with any sense of duty to Us, or of love to the Religion and Lawes established, in the quiet and peaceable Fruition whereof they and their Ancestors have enjoyed so great Happiness, that we have neither passed any Act, nor made any profession or protestation for the maintenance and Defence of the true Protestant Religion, and the Liberties of the Subject, which we will not most strictly and Religiously observe. And for the which we will not be alwaies ready to give them any security can be desired. And of these our Gracious Letters, we expect a speedy Answer from you. And so we bid you farewel.

Given at our Court in Oxford, *in the 19. Year of Our Reign,*
26. Dec. 1643.

By His Majesties Command.
George Digby.

Sir Henry Vane *Junior, his Obſervation on the* KINGS *Gracious* LETTER, *at a Common Hall in* LONDON. Ian. 1643.

GENTLEMEN. In this Letter you may obſerve ſome few particulars upon the reading of it over:

Firſt, the good informations his Majeſty hath of the inclinations of his people here, how that ſome principal men in this City, as it ſeems, was informed him, were very willing for to Petition him to peace, the grounds of this you know, upon what hath been offered already, how they came to be preſented to him, and that by expreſſing of it here in his Letter, it was rather to win your affections to it, under theſe plauſible pretences, then that he had any real or ſolid ground for any ſuch thing.

In the ſecond place, you may obſerve thus much, as hath been told you already, that his Majeſties ſcope in this Letter, and the deſign of the Counſel about him, is to invite you of this City to be his Interpoſers for the peace of the whole Kingdom, as if there were no Parliament ſitting, or as if you had quite forgot the truſt that your ſelves have repoſed in this preſent Parliament, for he ſaith he underſtands that you have a mind to petition him for a peace; that by that means the peace of the whole Kingdom may be effected; and if you will ſend him ſuch a Petition, he will then very willingly receive it.

The third thing is this, That his Majeſty declares, that there is no Act he hath hitherto paſſed in Parliament, but he will be moſt willing to confirm, a declaration that is renewed upon all occaſions, but never otherwiſe obſerved then it is now: for in the mean time that Act whereby this Parliament is a Parliament, whereby all other Acts of Parliament, and the whole frame of the Laws of this Kingdom are confirmed and preſerved, that very Act in this deſign is to be laid aſide, and utterly to be deſtroyed. And this Treaty is brought about for no other ends, but to deſtroy that, ſo that you may plainly ſee upon what ground theſe things are got from his Majeſty, and upon what Counſels; and withall, conſider what colour of ground you have to receive any fruit from any ſuch Declarations and Proteſtations as theſe are, when they muſt only ſerve to amaze you, till this Parliament, and in this all Parliaments are for ever rooted out, and deſtroyed. Mr.

Mr. Solicitor Saint-Johns *Obſervation upon the Reading the* King's *Gracious Letter, to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, at a Common-Hall.* Lond. Jan. 1643.

THe thing *in brief is thus*: It was a ſeditious and Ieſuitical Practice and Deſign, under the ſpecious pretence of Peace, to have rent the Parliament from the City, and the City from the Parliament; to have ſevered and disjoynted the Parliament within it ſelf, the City within it ſelf, thereby to render up both Parliament and City to the Deſignes of the enemy, which is not all: for the deſtruction and nulling of this preſent Parliament was intended; as likewiſe the ingaging our ſelves in a Treaty of Peace, without the Advice and Conſent of our Brethren of *Scotland*, contrary to the late Articles ſolemnly agreed upon by both Kingdoms, to the perpetual diſhonour of this Nation, by breach of our publique faith, engaged therein to that Nation, thereby not only to fruſtrate our expectation of aſſiſtance from *Scotland*, but which is worſe (in all likelihood) to engage the two Nations in broyles, if not in a War.

Your Petitioner moſt humbly leaves it to your Honours Great Wiſdom and Piety, to conſider this Glorious King Charles *the Firſt his ſad condition at that time, when ſo Gracious a condeſcending of his Majeſty to his City of* London, *muſt be reviled, fruſtrated, made void, and contemned, before the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-Council-men of* London, *by his own Lawyer, Solicitor, and ſworn Servant, and by Sir* Henry Vane *Junior. And if your Honours pleaſe but to adde Sir* Henry Vane's *Obſervation upon the Lord* George Digbie's *Letter touching this buſineſs at the ſame time. It is moſt apparent what theſe men had deſigned in* 1643. *when this his Majeſties moſt Gracious Letter muſt in this manner be miſ-repreſented to the City of* London, *which was one principal cauſe of the Continuance of the fatal War that followed, which deſtroyed the Church, the Law, the Nobility, the Gentry, the Communalty, and at laſt murthered the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty.*

The Lord GEO. DIGBY's *Letter to Sir* Basil Brook, *Read at a Common Hall*, Lond. Jan. 643.

SIR,

THe King and Queene hath both commanded me, to give you thanks in their Name for your care and diligence in their service; and His Majesty hath so much confidence in your discretion, and warinesse not to be deluded, that in hopes of the good effects towards a happy peace, which you seeme to promise your self from this negotiation, His Majesty is pleased to descend very far, in writing so gracious a Letter to those who may seeme to have deserved so ill of him.

I send you here withall a copy of the Letter it self, which varies only in stile, not in matter, from that draught which was sent down hither, which if you like and continue your confidence, that it might be effectuall to so blessed an end, as peace and union: you are to deliver to those parties seconded with assurance of his Majesties most gracious and sincere inclinations, to give them full satisfaction in all their reasonable desires; but if you shall finde cause to lessen the beliefe of a powerfull effect by this Letter of his Majesties, It is then recommended to yonr discretion to forbeare the delivery of it, since it would be a very unfit thing, to expose so great a grace, and condescending of his Majesty to hazards of being made frustrate and contemned. God send you happy succes in this great undertaking: I professe it is that, wherwith my beliefe and reason go along more comfortably, then with any thing I have known in projection since these troubles; But it is not fit to ravell further into the businesse this hazardous way, and therefore I shall adde no more, but I am

Oxford 29. *Decemb.* 1643.

Your very affectionate Servant
GEORGE DIGBY.

Sir

Sir *Henry Vane* Junior, his Obſervation on the Lord *George Digby*'s Letter at a Common Hall in *London*, *January* 1643.

I humbly hope the right honorable Lord *George Digby* now Earle of *Briſtow*, will take into his conſideration the great abuſe theſe bold & wicked men, Sir Henry Vane Junior, and Solicitor St. John, late Lord Chief Juſtice for the Rump Parliament, having impudently abuſed his Lordſhip at a Common Hall in Lond. and after by their own order, appointed one Peter Cole a Stationer in Cornhil to print their ſeditious ſpeech. My duty and Allegiance to his late Royal Majeſty, in the mean time gives them this mark in print to poſterity, had they their due, they both deſerved to be hanged drawn an quartred, for this their traitorus paraphraſe on his late Majeſties Letter to the City of *London*.

GENTLEMEN,

IF there had been no Comment made upon this buſineſſe, this Letter would have been enough. This Letter acknowledgeth the draught that was ſent from the Citie of London, *from thoſe that had contrived it here, and that it was paſt the Court at* Oxford, *without any materiall alteration; this Letter likewiſe acknowledgeth ſo much wiſedome, ſo much caution in Sir* Baſil Brook, *that known Jeſuited Papiſt, as hath been told you before, ſo much tenderneſſe of his Majeſties Honour to be in him, that all is left to his diſcretion, as he thinks fit of: If he finde the Temper of the Citie to be right, to be delivered, it is left to his Caution, to his warineſſe, to his ſence and meaſure of his Majeſties honour, to do in it as he pleaſeth: there is likewiſe held forth unto you, that in his opinion (which is my Lord* Digby's *opinion) there was nothing that ever he obſerved of any projection (It is his own word, and therefore you may the better obſerve it) that he never obſerved any thing in projection, or in deſign all this Parliament, tending this way, that was more likely and probable to bring the Kings ends about: And if you remember this till you heare another Letter of his read by and by, which there declares plainly that the Kings end in his Councels now about him, is never to acknowledge this to be a Parliament: Compare that with this here, and then you may underſtand what a project this was.*

In the laſt place, you may obſerve that the Lord Digby *his great inclinations as well as Sir* Baſil Brook's, *for a bleſſed peace, and a bleſſed union in this Kingdome, when you know very well there hath not been a more unhappy inſtrument to blow up jealouſies and miſunderſtandings between his Majeſty and his People, and that durſt not ſtand the juſtice of the Parliament, but was fain to fly out of the Kingdome for it, and at the beginning of theſe unhappy diſtractions, he adviſed his Majeſty to retire into ſome ſtrong place, the better to engage him in a war upon his Subjects, And yet no other phraſe in his mouth but a happy peace, and a bleſſed union, to cozen poor people, to lead them into ſnares.*

Die

Die Sabbati 6. Jan. 1643.

SIR *Henry Vane*, Mr. *Solicitor*, and Sir *Arthur Heſilrig*, report the deſign of Mr. *Theophilus Riley*, Scout-maſter of the City, Col. *Reade*, Sir *Baſil Brook*, Mr. *Violet*, and others, concerning Letters, a Petition, and propoſitions touching Accommodation, &c. and the particular Examinations of the ſaid parties, and a Letter from his Majeſty to the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, &c. and two Letters from the Lord *Digbie* to Sir *Baſil Brook*, of the 29. of *December*, and the 2. of *January* were all read. Reſolved, &c. *Theophilus Riley*, Sir *Baſil Brook*, and *Thomas Violet*, ſhall be committed cloſe priſoners to the Tower.

Hen. Elſing. Cler. Parl. Dom. Com.

May it pleaſe your Honours,

THere is a Book *printed by* Peter Cole, *Stationer in* Cornhil, *by order of Sir* Henry Vane, *my Lord Chief Juſtice* St. John, *Sir* Arthur Heſilrigg, 10. Jan. 1643. *which is ſtiled A cunning Plot, to divide and deſtroy the Parliament and the City of* London, *wherein this obſervation of Sir* Henry Vane, *and the Lord Chief Juſtice* St. John *upon the late Kings Majeſties Gracious Letter, and the Lord* Digby's *Letter is ſet down* verbatim, *as your Peeitioner hath here humbly preſented to your Honours, and ſeveral other particulars, to which your Petitioner humbly refers, which were by them ſpoken at a Common Hall in* London, *about 6. of* Jan. 1643. *touching the Queens Majeſtie, the then Dutcheſs of* Buckingham, *the Lord* Digby, *to which Book your Petitioner doth humbly refer.*

Your Petitioner having ſpent in ſolicitation and attendance, ſince his diſcharge from the Tower, *to get his Eſtate, or the valew in Offices and Imployments reſtored to him, above the ſumme of fifteen hundred pounds, beſides dayly attendance on all ſuch who God for the ſins of this Kingdome permitted to have the Power, yet your* Petitioner *never received penny ſatisfaction, but dayly put off with References, Reports, and Certificates, to his totall Ruine without your Honours reliefe. Your humble Petitioner caſts himſelf at your Honours feet for ſuch Reparation and Satisfaction as your Honours in your* Piety *and Juſtice ſhall think fit, for the Redeeming your* Petitioner *from ſo heavy an oppreſſion, as for theſe many years he hath ſuffered for bringing to* London *this his late Majeſties Gracious Letter for peace.*

And your Petitioner (as in duty bound) ſhall ever pray, &c.

This Petition *I preſented to the* Parliament *in* April 1660. *and the Lords ordered me to preſent it to his Majeſty upon his happy Arrival into* England, *for to have Juſtice.*